



On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Wednesday, December 17, 2008



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**

US\$ 43.60

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

BOMB SCARE



A member of the Scientific and Technical Police tours a Paris department store after a bomb alert, Tuesday Dec. 16, 2008, in Paris. Police neutralized explosives discovered Tuesday in a prestigious Paris department store, and France's national news agency said it received a claim of responsibility from an Afghan group.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

WINNING HAND



Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Jason Avant gives his gloves to youngsters after the Eagles' 30-10 win over the Cleveland Browns in an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, in Philadelphia.

Sports Today Page B11

Rotary Club Aruba enjoy Christmas dinner at The Westin



PALM BEACH — Throughout the year the Rotary Club Aruba endeavors to improve the lives of those in need. To this end they organize fundraisers though out the year, the last big one being the annual golf tournament, two weeks ago at Tierra del Sol. The Pago Pago Restaurant at The Westin was the venue of choice for their annual Christmas Dinner. Smartly dressed Aruba's Rotarians enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the hands of The Westin's superb staff.

- Photos by JJ -
More on Pages 4 & 5

Wonderful donation for the Clown Doctors by CMB



ORANJESTAD - The Caribbean Mercantile Bank (CMB) has helped the Clown Doctors enormously by donating a cheque to help cover the expenses, made during last month's Diamond Ice Cube Raffle happening. The event, held at the Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall, was a tremendous success which drew many people to the new mall.

Armin Solognier of the Caribbean Mercantile Bank handed over the cheque to two happy clowns last week. He said: "The CMB is a financial institution which is involved in the community."

Continued on Page 6

Premium Chicken Line
Crispy or Grilled



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At Buccaneer Restaurant

Government Human Resource Department enjoy holiday celebration



parties & Christmas gatherings were amongst the many diners who enjoyed the dining experience. A special group from the Government Human Resource Department (DPO) enjoyed their annual Christmas celebration. Judging by the many happy faces and pleasant conversations, the thirteen attendees enjoyed their evening. Mr. Leopoldo Hernandis, Deputy Director of the Department held a speech about the outstanding performance of the department during the year 2008 and the recognition that the Government Human Resource Department (DPO) receive from other Government Departments about the good result of different project's and team spirit of all employees. The owner, Josef Munzenhofer wants to thank DPO and everyone for your support in returning through the doors of his establishment. "I built this restaurant as a dream and now it is my legacy which all of you have made it what it is today. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless you and your families with a lifetime of love, peace and wonderful Aruba memories. □

Photo by Angela Munzenhofer

NOORD – This past weekend the Buccaneer was in full swing with repeat guests and new comers for the holiday season. Buccaneer is proud to announce that last week was 28 years that the establishment first opened its doors and is proud to serve loyal patrons. Christmas

Fractional interests in fully furnished 3-bedroom Club Residences | \$149,900



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www.anabui.com

Everyone was having a blast!

Great turn-out for the last Beach Tennis Ranking of 2008



com or call Jochem Ros at 5926421.

The results of the December Ranking were:

fun ladies: 1 Andrea/Kristina
- 2 Stella Harms/Monique Bouwer, 8-5

fun men: 1 Raynell & Johan
- 2 Maurice Musika & Colombia, 8-5

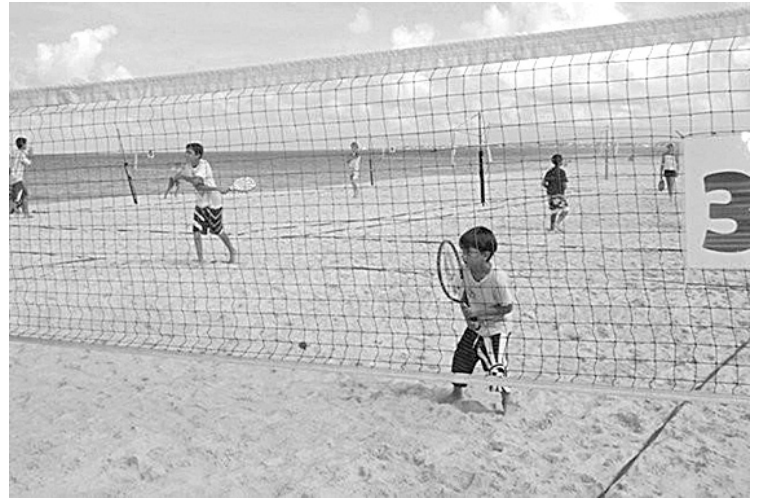
advanced ladies: 1 Yvonne Baay/Julia de rRuyter - 2 Danielle van Staveren/Yvette Tromp, 8-7

advanced men: 1 Fred Arts/Fleski Eskens - 2 Chris Maas/Jan Roodzant, 8-7

advanced mix: 1 Wim Duyzer/Manon van Zwieten - 2 Belinda/Christian MNartinez 8-6

pro ladies: 1 Evelyn peeters/Marieke buuts - Jolanda vd Sluys/Kim Tilleman 8-5

pro men: 1 Jochem Ros/Wessel Schalling - 2 Sjoerd de Vries/Clifford Giel, 8-7



EAGLE BEACH - The spectacular turn-out for the last Beach Tennis Ranking made the white sand of Eagle Beach sizzle last Sunday. Sixty teams showed up and everyone played their hearts out, jumping and running, sweating and laughing. Sunday's thrilling finals and amazing ambiance were the prelude to the official opening of the MooMba Tennis Club, when Beach Tennis will have a home of its own. The Kings and Queens of the 2008 Ranking will be announced at the opening. Beach Tennis is the fastest growing sport on the island. Every body can do it: there are windsurfers, kites, soccer players, volleyball players, swimmers and tennis players joining in, as well as many people who have never done a day of sports in their lives. Beach Tennis sponsors are Amstel Bright, Alno Kitchen, Aruba Aloe, Best & Solid/Century 21, Inter Assure, I love Aruba and Trane. For information about next year's competition, lessons and rankings check out www.arubabeachtennis.com

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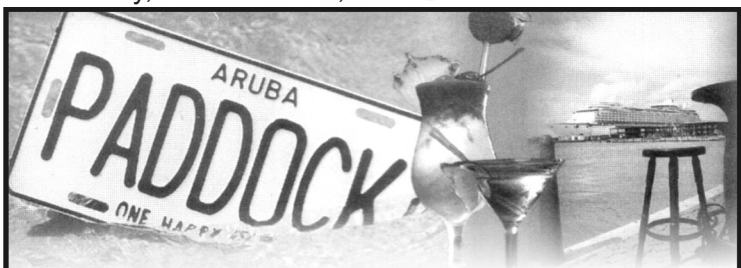
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THE PADDOCK-WEEK

SUNDAY

11PM TILL 01AM \$2-BAR
**ALL-U-CAN-EAT
BURGERS for \$10**

MONDAY LIVE MUSIC

ENJOY A RELAXED AND CASUAL DINNER
ON OUR TERRACE WITH A BEAUTIFULL
VIEW OF THE SUNSET.

TUESDAY LIVE MUSIC

2 FOR TUESDAY HAPPY HOUR
FROM 11PM TILL MIDNIGHT
"ASK ONE-GET-TWO"

WEDNESDAY

ALL U CAN EAT RIBS
only \$13 starting at 5pm
Student Night All Drinks **\$1.50**
11pm to 1am

THURSDAY

Live Music
"DUTCH MEAL"
Weekly something different

FRIDAY

DUTCH HAPPY HOUR from 5 till 7pm
Half Price on 1 BEER and 1 MIX DRINKS!
FREE SNACKS!!

SATURDAY

**RED HOT
SATURDAY**

Every hour 15 min. \$1.00

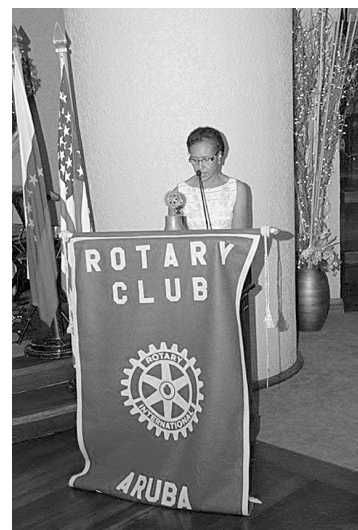
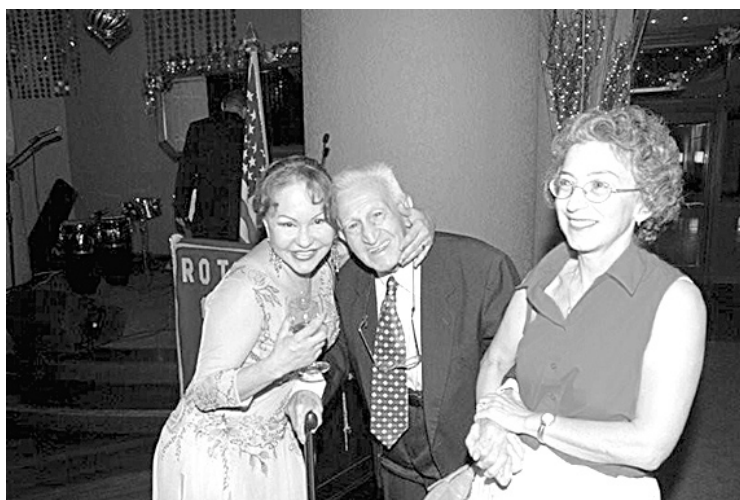
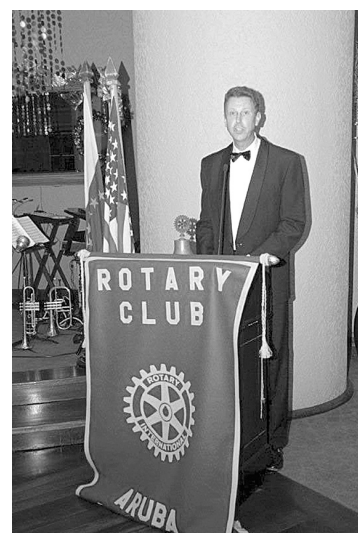
**We serve Breakfast at 8:30am
EVERY DAY**



www.paddock-aruba.com

Rotary Club Aruba enjoy Christmas dinner at The Westin

Continued from Front Page



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HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

Last day to bring your X-mas ball is on January 9, 2009



Now Open Now Open Now Open Now Open Now Open Now Open

Now Open

Quickie Lickie

Tel: 586-7556 LAUNDROMAT

At Palm Beach 186, Next to Wendy's

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

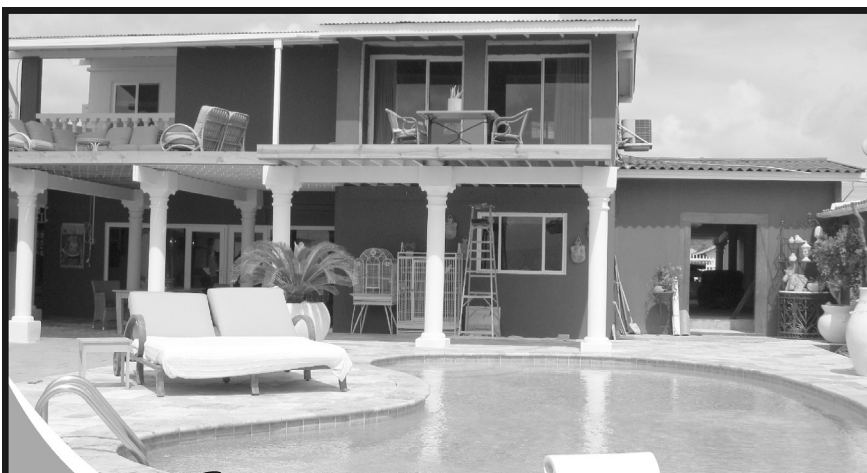


Mon-Sat 8:00 - 9:00

Sunday 8:00 - 4:00

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Price \$ 1.400.000

Spaanslagoweg 22
Land 900m2
Build-up area 370 m2

Spectacular Ocean Front

Property, 5 bedrooms, 6 Bathrooms,
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This house has a breathtaking view of the ocean!



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of purchasing
your
dream home
on Aruba!

RE/MAX

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Discover the Radisson Aruba



Wednesday: BBQ Night!

\$19.95 per person plus service charge

Dinner Buffet served from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet

LagunaRestaurantAruba.com

KIDS EAT FREE • Bring this ad for a FREE glas of sangria*

*Kids under age 12, one per paying adult. *One glass per person. Not valid with any others offers.



SunsetGrilleAruba.com

Nightly Special: Fine Dining

USDA Prime Beef, Fresh Seafood and Spa Cuisine
Voted "2007 Best Restaurant in the Caribbean"
AAA 4-Diamond & Wine Spectator Award Winner

Choose from indoor art deco ambiance or open-air terrace dining.

Reservations Recommended



The Larimar Spa at the Radisson Aruba features nine beautifully appointed treatment rooms, offering a full menu of services including advanced skin care therapies, therapeutic and integrated massages, exfoliating, nourishing and detoxifying body treatments including body polishes and wraps, and a full-service salon...all certain to ensure your return to indulge time after time.

- Massages
- Body Treatments
- Facials/Skincare
- Salon Services
- Gift Certificates

Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
For appointments, call 526.6053

LarimarSpaAruba.com



MiraSoloAruba.com

Martini Bar

Our outdoor lounge perched atop cascading waterfalls and open to sun, stars and cooling breezes. Liquid pleasures await...premium vodkas, scotches, cognacs, and tequilas - or choose from our Martini Madness menu. The place to start, end or spend the evening!

Open weekdays from 4 p.m. and weekends from 3 p.m.
Live music with "El Prove"



GilligansAruba.com

Promotion ends
December 19th 2008

All prices are subject
to 15% service charge
and sales tax

Casual Beachside Dining BEST DEAL ON THE BEACH!!

Daily Breakfast Special \$7.50

Including juice & coffee/tea. 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Daily Lunch Special \$ 8.50

Including iced tea. 12 Noon - 5 p.m.

Gilligan's Happy Days from 12 Noon to 5 p.m. Drinks @ \$4.50

Includes all libations, also frozen drinks, made with house-brand liquor and Balashi Beer

Two for One Happy Hour 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

With live entertainment. Bar open from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 81 | Palm Beach | Radisson.com/Aruba | 526.6612 or 526.6613



Wonderful donation for the Clown Doctors by CMB



Continued from Front Page

As the Clown Doctors is an established foundation which is doing a great job to alleviate pain and suffering, the bank's management decided to help."

In the picture Mr. Solognier is seen handing over the cheque to clowns Poeroenchi and Froesjel. □

A Guilder in the Sweat stained hat

By: Roland W. Peterson

She would run up the stairs
Grandpa, Grandpa I have my report card
Sitting on his old rocking chair on the porch
Grandpa would look at the report card
Very nice my little Angel
He would say as he takes off his hat

Sticking his hand into his pocket
He then would press a guilder (florin)
in her little hand
Thanks Grandpa she would say
As she sprints into the house

Year after year
This ritual took place
Then one day the rocking chair was empty
Only the hat lay on it

Years passed by
On report card day
She takes up the hat
And smells the sweat stained rim
She presses it to her heart
Thank you Grandpa, thank you
And somehow there is a guilder in it
Year after year.



Build your dream home on Aruba!

Last 2 lots available in prestigious "Westpunt"
Lot #1 - 404m2 property land **\$59.000,-**
Lot #2 - 568m2 property land **\$78.650,-**
Both are located at the end of a Cul de Sac with
all brand new homes and paved streets.
New home + land for as little as \$158.000,-

Call Julian for this listing and many more: **594 - 2256**

*Where Aruba goes to play...
7 days a week!*

Wild Cash Wednesday!

Win your share of **\$300** in **CASH PRIZES!**

Earn one FREE entry ticket for every 50 points
earned today from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Cash Prize raffles from 10:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

TOMORROW

Don't miss Bonus Bingo Thursday!
\$1,000 in CASH PRIZES & early bird bonus
for card purchase prior to 12:00 p.m.

Table games open at 6:00 pm with \$3.00 Blackjack daily!

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Open daily 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.
with Happy Hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

Alhambra
CASINO
ARUBA
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INTRODUCING ISLAND REMEDY

The legend of Aloe revealed



Introducing one of nature's oldest remedies
and our most powerful moisturizing
formulation - Island Remedy.

This unique blend of natural essences and
100% Pure Aruba Aloe, the world's most
powerful moisturizer, is specially formulated
to stimulate the natural healing process and
cell-reviving capabilities, while enhancing its
radiance.

Island Remedy. The legend of aloe revealed.

Island Remedy is now available at Aruba Aloe stores at the Paseo Herencia
Mall, the Renaissance mall and at the Aruba Aloe Factory,
Hato. To purchase the products online from the USA, visit
www.ArubaAloe.com



Every Friday
Paella & Flamenco at Casa Tua Downtown on Friday

DOWNTOWN - Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours. Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel.



crust recipe was handed down by an Italian chef, known locally as "the pizza master", in the French student city of Montpellier in 1969. This recipe has been perfected over the years to such a point where Casa Tua is known on the island these days for the best pizza. Period.

Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm.
Casa Tua Downtown open from 11am to 11pm, on Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.
For more information or reservations
Palm Beach: 586 8470
Downtown: 588 5695

The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian. With a Sicilian-style thin crust, dripping with cheese and fresh-made tomato sauce, this pizza comes with a variety of toppings in the meat and veggie categories. Pasta dishes, full Italian meals like Lasagne and veal Osso Buco, fresh salads and rich desserts are also on the menu. Casa Tua's famous secret thin



Red Sail Sports Aruba
for all sail cruises

With Red Sail Sports Aruba Sunset Sailing along Aruba's scenic Coastline

PALM BEACH – Red Sail Sports is excited to let everyone know about its Catamaran Sailing program. A perfect combination of romance and relaxation, the moonlight sail along the scenic Aruban coastline offers food, drinks, music and more. Nibble on tantalizing snacks while you sit back and enjoy the sounds of live Caribbean music. The open bar offers a variety of tropical cocktails, including some Aruban specialties – be sure to ask the friendly crew for a Captain's Special! Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing all day long aboard Red Sail Sports top quality, well maintained catamarans. If a sunset sail is a little late for the kids, you can set sail on Red Sail Sports' fun-filled Luncheon or Afternoon Snorkel Trips. The Snorkel Sails are safe for kids of all ages and brings



guests to all the best snorkeling spots in Aruba, including Aruba's most famous snorkel spot – the wreck of the Antilla where you can see yellowtail snapper, angelfish, blue head wrasse and dozens of other tropical fish. Red Sail Sports also offers a Sunset Sail where you can relax with a cocktail and enjoy the spectacular Aruban sunset. A Sunset Sail is truly the best way to watch the sun go down on your Caribbean holiday. **To make reservations or for more information call Red Sail Sports at 586-1603, visit your hotel concierge or your Red Sail Sports representative at the Hyatt, Allegro, Marriott and Renaissance Resorts.**

Only the highest quality will do
Nobushi makes sushi like no one else

PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. If you are in a hurry, go somewhere else. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. The chefs specialize in Aruba Exotic Sushi and Asian Cuisine with unique flavors second to none. The ever so friendly staff will gladly explain the different dishes and specials to you, and help you with unique food & wine pairings. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses. Nobushi is located in the Paseo Herencia Mall across the Holiday Inn Resort.



For reservations & more information please call: 586-2211 or ask your concierge.

Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere
Matthew's Beachside Restaurant

EAGLE BEACH – Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operated Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it's very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



Opening Hours
Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

Daily Happy Hours
Noon - 1:00pm
4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)
9:00pm - 10:00pm

For Reservations & Information call:
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Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ, Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!
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\$10 off
Valid only with direct tel. reservation - cannot be combined with other offers. Save \$10 per coupon/per couple for morning cruises. Save \$5 per coupon/per couple for afternoon cruises.



Get ready for a close and personal encounter with huge, prehistoric birds! The Aruba Ostrich Farm invites you to meet these unique birds and learn more about their behavior, natural instinct and maybe even stand on its enormous eggs. Our Savanna Lodge Restaurant serves ostrich delicacies, chicken dishes, salads, vegetarian dishes and offers a breathtaking view along Aruba's north shore. Don't forget to pay a visit to our African Art Shop!



Bring this ad for a 20% discount on the tour. Not valid with other promotions.

“Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of



“Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba



Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill from 8am to 8pm. Closed on Sunday. The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted. We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum. Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



Pam-Pam Restaurant offers a unique gourmet dining experience

Basic Gourmet : Chicken
\$ 15.-
 Beef
 Pork
 Hamburger
 Groundbeef bacon rolls

Salad
 Onion - Paprika
 French bread with garlic butter
 Variety of sauces

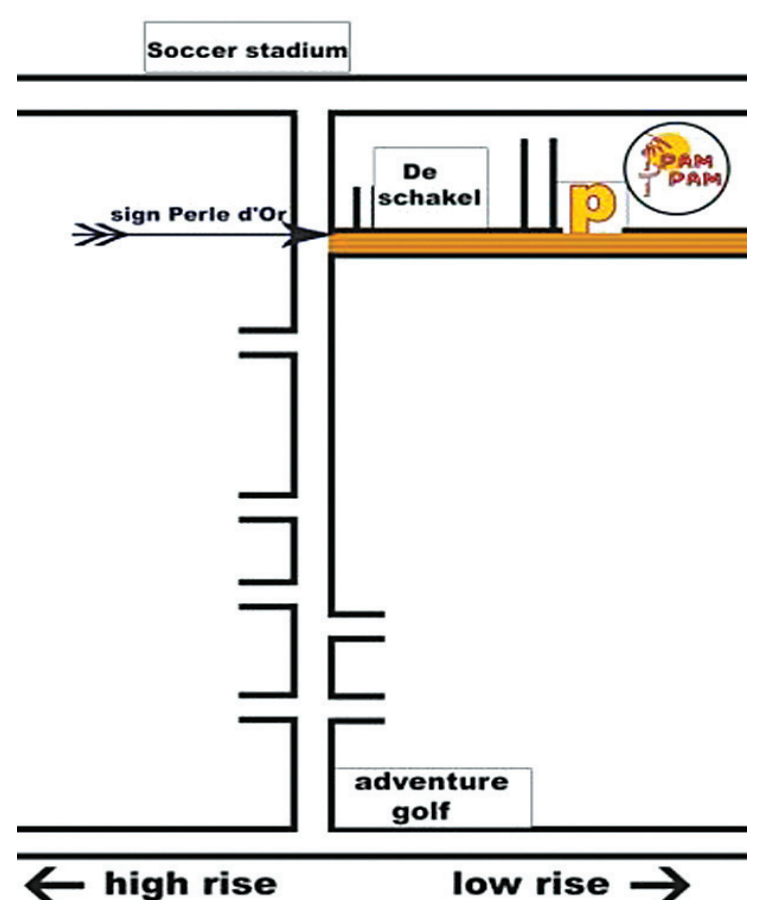
Luxe Gourmet : chicken
\$ 20.-
 Beef
 Pork
 Hamburger
 Grouperfilet
 shrimp

Salad
 Potato salad
 Onion - Paprika
 French bread with garlic butter
 Mushrooms
 Bacon
 Variety of sauces

Located in the charming topical environs of the Perle D’Or Resort, the Pam-Pam Restaurant offers a peek at Aruba’s cunucu (countryside) while still being conveniently located close to all of Aruba’s prime resorts. First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced,

Pam-Pam’s house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently, in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their “Gourmet Meal.” A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. Gourmet are priced either \$15 or \$20 p.p.

It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance or at least before 1.00 pm Pam-Pam Café and its proprietor, Nico



and Monique, aside from a wonderful and affordable meal provide a friendly atmosphere and a great place to get to know island life and the islanders that frequent visit this popular restaurant. Open seven days a week for

breakfast, lunch & dinner. It is a perfect stop to relax and enjoy ambiance any time of the day true island. When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com. Phone: 5877710 or 5932660

St Louis, Chung lead T&T squad

JAMAICA - Dexter St.Louis and Rheann Chung will lead the Trinidad and Tobago squad in the Caribbean Table Tennis Championships from today in Jamaica.

The France-based players returned home Wednesday and the T&T team, minus No. 1 locally-based player Anthony Brown, travelled yesterday.

The former national champion, better known as "Sandfly" in table tennis circles, was forced to withdraw from the tournament with a knee injury. Brown did not compete in the final "prep" (Supersingles) last week Sunday because of the same problem.

Top under-21 player Kris Frank, who was originally the reserve, will now partner St Louis, Curtis Humphreys and Anson Wellington on the men's team.

St Louis' stepdaughter Chung, a former Caribbean under-21 champ, is being accompanied on the women's team by Astra Edwards, Ashley Quashie and Catherine Spicer, who at age 13 will be one of the youngest players to ever compete in the tournament.

Ramon Ortega Montes, on loan from the International Table Tennis Federation, is the coach and the Spaniard will be assisted by Edwards' sister Aleena, a multiple national champ who is out of competition with injury. Former top player Selwyn Singh is the manager.

The team events will be contested today and tomorrow, followed the day after by doubles and the under-21 categories. And the men's and women's singles events will occupy the final two days of play. The 40-year-old St Louis has already been crowned Caribbean singles champ on three occasions (1998, '04, '05), and the only T&T male player to clinch the prestigious title more than twice will be among the favourites to win again.

However, the men's team title has eluded this country since 1974. The women were last victorious four years ago with Chung at the helm of a side which included assistant coach Aleena.

Aruba, Barbados, Curacao, French Guiana, Guyana, Puerto Rico, St Vincent and host country Jamaica will also be represented in the five-day tournament. □



Lady Luck hits at Excelsior Casino

PALM BEACH – This very lucky gentleman won over a \$1000.00 playing the slots. The Excelsior Casino is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility. The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests come from the United States, 30% from South America and the balance from Europe. The beautiful Excelsior Casino will satisfy your taste for games of chance. One of Aruba's finest casinos, the Excelsior Casino features Las Vegas style gambling of all games of chance as well as a beautiful sports

betting area and poker room. The Excelsior Casino is the only casino in Aruba to offer 3-4-5 times odds on Craps and Double Deck Blackjack. Spanish 21 and Blackjack can be delt out of a shoe at your request. And, most of all, the Excelsior Casino does not hit the soft 17. The Excelsior Casino features the largest Poker Room with limits as low as \$2-\$4 to \$50-\$100 no limit. No need to carry coins to the cashier!

The Excelsior Casino's state of the art slot machines are totally Ticket-In, Ticket-Out. □

LOVE YOUR Steak!

(and your husband / wife / girlfriend / boyfriend / too)



Next to the Crystal Casino you will find Aruba's most famous Steakhouse: **L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House**

Oranjestad's proud home of great steaks at great prices, featuring exquisitely prepared appetizers, mouth-watering Certified Angus Beef and tantalizing desserts, awaits you with open arms! Come try our Tuna Sashimi or Beef Carpaccio, our juicy N.Y. Strip or the ever popular Porterhouse and finish with a chocolate threesome, the Sweetest Taboo!

L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House was voted the number 1 steakhouse in Aruba. For reservations call 523-6195 or visit www.lgsmiths.com

L . G . SMITH'S

STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

Become a collector*:

Have dinner at LG. Smith's and receive with each dinner a silver colored coin with an Aruba Landmark on it!



Dinner 1



Dinner 2



Dinner 3



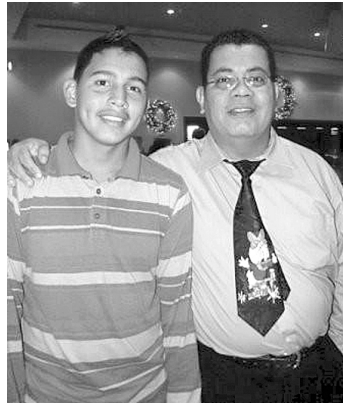
Dinner 4

*coin received when ordering appetizer and main course, one coin per table/reservation, promotion not valid in combination with any other promotions. Management reserves the right to withdraw promotion at any moment. Keep stamp card in safe place, to be able to collect all 4

Radisson stages a year end presentation for Maria College



PALM BEACH - The Grand Caribbean Ballroom hosted the lead of director Roosje Garrido. The staff of 32 518 school students under teachers directed presentations



of 20 high school divisions which went over very well as they have used the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa many times, always



successfully. Lunch buffet was catered after the presentations by the resort's culinary team. Pictured here students and teachers celebrating the season. □



WACKY WAHOO'S

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F A V I

"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"



By Dr. Carlos Viana

Traditionally Christmas dinner is a focal element of the holiday season where we sit down with family and friends for the “breaking of the bread”. The expression “breaking of bread”, some believe, must be qualified. “Breaking of bread” signified the dividing of the bread cakes or loaves which were used by Orientals. Sometimes “breaking of bread” is used concerning partaking of a common meal (Mk. 6: 41; Acts 27: 35) and “Breaking of bread: is also used in connection with the religious memorial called the Lord’s Supper. We are talking about Christmas dinner and before we can sit down to enjoy our meal, we need to plan our menu.

For several years already we have said goodbye to the traditional holiday smoked ham. Ham, as all pork products is detrimental to people in all blood groups. Pork aggravates blood to become sticky; slows down proper digestion and obstructs absorption of nutrition. Instead we have a turkey that I slowly roast on the barbeque. No deep frying here! Turkey has become my family dinner’s center piece because it is a healthy alternative to more traditional foods that are classed as being detrimental according to your blood type. I carve a mean plate of turkey in front of our guests. You might not know this but the nutrition facts of turkey per serving is: 232 calories, 11 grams of fat, but only 3 grams saturated fat, 108 mg cholesterol, 77 mg sodium, 0 g carbohydrate, 0 g fiber, 32 grams protein, and 15% iron. There is

nothing wrong nutritionally here. Additionally, hiding in the 32 grams of protein is tryptophan an essential amino acid. Tryptophan is needed for the production of Niacin (vitamin B 3) and is the precursor of our brain chemical serotonin. Serotonin is the calming, sedating substance essential for normal mood and sleep patterns. Now you know why you are so inclined to take a nap after a turkey dinner.

The traditional potato smothered in cheese is out. Both the potato and cheese will slow down the metabolism of most of us. Instead, for carbohydrates we use sweet potatoes, pumpkin, and brown rice. This year, after baking the potatoes in the grill next to the turkey, we are going to mash the sweet potatoes with a touch of ginger. Ginger contains components that positively influence known disease susceptibility, a good thing. I think the ginger balances nicely the taste of the sweet potatoes. The nutrition facts per serving of sweet potatoes includes: 240 calories, 6 g total fat, 4 g saturated fat, 15 mg cholesterol, 73 mg sodium, 46 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 2 g protein, 294% vitamin A, 54% vitamin C. Did you see the amount of vitamin A? Wow, I am surprised that sweet potatoes do not need to be registered as an eye medicine.

We could not think about any holiday dinner without serving pumpkin. Here we go again helping our eyes. The nutrition facts for pumpkin per serving is: 286 calories, 13 grams total fat, 4 g saturated fat, 86 mg cholesterol, 120 mg sodium, 38 g

Holiday Dinner

carbohydrate, 2 grams of fiber, 7 grams protein, 130% vitamin A, 9% vitamin C, 7% calcium, 13% iron. Did you notice the blood building qualities of pumpkin? Only people with blood group B cannot enjoy this delicious and nutritious vegetable. In Aruba, pumpkin soup is a specialty. If I am lucky Amy might bake me a pumpkin pie, yum! Or maybe we will make pumpkin with onions.

As in every meal at our house brown rice is the staple carbohydrate. For this meaningful occasion we will add some zest (and even more nutrition) to our brown rice with wild rice and quinoa. Brown rice can be enjoyed by all blood groups. White “polished” rice is nutritionally lifeless since the bran, which contains all of the nutrition, has been stolen to sell to pharmaceutical companies to make B complex vitamins. This should give us a strong indication the benefit derived from eating brown rice. The wild rice, especially if harvested from wild ponds, contains trace minerals missing in our other grains. Super-grain, Peruvian quinoa has one of the highest amounts of absorbable calcium available. Support for our bones that cooks in just 15 minutes!

And what would turkey dinner be without cranberry sauce? Cranberries are a traditional remedy for bladder infection. Cranberries contain a naturally occurring simple sugar, closely related to glucose

called D- mannose. D-Mannose is metabolized by our bodies and excreted into the urine. This simple sugar helps maintain a healthy urinary tract by its interaction with the bacterium found in over 90% of all bladder infections, Escherichia coli (“E. coli”). This strain of E.coli is found as part of the “normal microflora” in every intestinal tract. But even normal E.coli does not belong in the bladder and urinary tract. In these areas they multiply and become an infection. D-Mannose “sticks” to E.coli. When we take a large quantity of D-Mannose by eating cranberries, almost all of it spills into the urine through our kidneys, literally “coating” any E.coli present so they can no longer “stick” to the inside walls of the bladder and urinary tract. The E.coli is literally rinsed away with normal urination! Imagine, all from eating cranberries. Include your favorite fresh green vegetables prepared with olive oil and fresh herbs, and you’ve got yourself a healthy, holiday feast.

Choosing your Holiday Menu? Get the Point! Selecting healthy foods from your “beneficial” list (available at our Clinic) is a delicious and healthy alternative to some traditional holiday foods. As for our “Breaking of bread” dinner being a “common meal” or a “religious memorial”, I do not make a distinction. I just know that with my glass of red wine is loaded with antioxidants. I will toast



and give thanks for the presence of healthy family members and friends and remember those of you who cannot make it this year.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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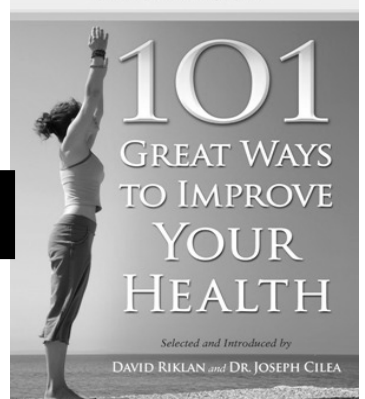
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Co-authored by Aruba's
Carlos Viana, O.M.D., C.N.N.

EQ3 opens at Salina Cerca



NOORD - The much anticipated soft opening of EQ3 took place last week with the lovely and spacious store beautifully laid out

with pieces of furniture and accents, immediately welcoming buyers to make their choice without window-shopping any

further. EQ3 is designed with the contemporary man and women in mind taking our contemporary homes into consideration. The furniture is elegantly composed with simple lines.

It is easy to move and easy to clean, as it combines sharp looks with functionality. Best of all it is very well priced and fits every day budgets. Owner Lynn Maduro reports that the manufacturers, from Winnipeg Canada, combine long lasting quality with mix and match flexibility, making their well merchandised line popular all over the world. For the grand opening in January, a special design team will be in Aruba to help orchestrate an unforgettable affair. Pictured here store interiors with Lynn Maduro. □



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Loyal visitors honored at the Aruba Beach Club

EAGLE BEACH - Recently at Aruba Beach Club, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador

of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Francis Jacobs at the Aruba Beach Club which they call their home away from home. Mrs. Vernice Mc.Griff and Mrs. Margaret Hoefnagel were honored as ambassador of goodwill for the Island of Aruba. On picture Ricardo Croes from ATA together with all honorees and also Izaira from ABC



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People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well.

A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at www.bugaloe.com. Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.





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umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a gar-

den full of healthy eats on a **lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar**, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking

to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal ☐

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Fed cuts target for key rate to record low



Federal reserve Building. With an economy sinking fast and key interest rates approaching zero, the Federal Reserve is struggling to find new tools to break a credit logjam and fire up growth, analysts say.

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Federal Reserve has cut its target for a key interest rate to the lowest level on record and pledged to use "all available tools" to combat a severe financial crisis and prolonged recession. The central bank on Tuesday said it had reduced the federal funds

rate, the interest that banks charge each other, to a range of zero to 0.25 percent. That is down from the 1 percent target rate in effect since the last meeting in October. Many analysts had expected the Fed to make a smaller cut to 0.5 percent.

Continued on Page B3

(AFP/File)

Old TNT discovered at famed Paris department store

By JEAN-PIERRE VERGES
Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) - Police acting on a warning Tuesday found a bundle of dynamite inside a Paris department store at the height of the Christmas season, and a group demanding that France withdraw from Afghanistan claimed responsibility.

Sticks of dynamite tied together but without a detonator were found in the Printemps department store, a favored shopping destination for tourists, and a Christmas season attraction because of its festive window displays.

Interior Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said the explosives appeared "relatively old." Police said they were found in the third floor restroom of the menswear department. Five sticks were found together, officials said.

"There was no risk of explosion,"

the minister said.

French news agency Agence France-Presse said it received a letter Tuesday morning from a group calling itself the Afghan Revolutionary Front saying that several bombs had been planted in the store. Police said they searched the store and found the dynamite because of the warning.

Alliot-Marie said the group was "totally unknown" to police but that the claim was being studied.

In the letter, the group demanded the withdrawal of French troops from Afghanistan before the end of February, and threatened attacks if France refuses.

"Otherwise we will go back into action in your big capitalist stores and this time without warning you," the letter said, according to AFP.

President Nicolas Sarkozy, who

has increased France's troop levels in Afghanistan, quickly stressed that he would not bend to terrorism. France has 2,800 troops in Afghanistan.

"We need to be vigilant about terrorism. That is the only right policy. We have to be firm. We cannot compromise with terrorists," Sarkozy said.

Officers cordoned off streets around the building. Anti-crime brigades and bomb squads were called in.

Store employees and customers left the building.

"It's worrying, but there's no reason to panic," said Evelyne Bredy, a sportswear saleswoman who works on the third floor, where the explosives were found. She and a shivering colleague waited outside the store while police with sniffer dogs worked inside.

"We're used to it. It happens,"

Obama chooses Chicago schools chief Ed. Secretary



Education Secretary-designate Arne Duncan, flanked by President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden, speaks at the Dodge Renaissance Academy in Chicago, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) - President-elect Barack Obama announced the head of the Chicago school system as his education secretary Tuesday and said failing to improve classroom instruction is "morally unacceptable for our children." Obama announced

Arne Duncan's appointment at a school that he said has made remarkable progress under Duncan's leadership. "When it comes to school reform, Arne is the most hands-on of hands-on practitioners," Obama said.

Continued on Page B4



French police discovered five sticks of dynamite in a Paris department store, forcing the evacuation of hordes of tourists and shoppers at the height of the Christmas shopping season.

Photo by Eric Piermont

she said. "There are often maybe not this type of suspicious packages - though evacuation." □

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Bailout payout tops \$8 trillion

Jeanne Cummings

As the holiday season commences, it's worth taking stock of the last gift that President George W. Bush and the 110th Congress have left for U.S. taxpayers.

It's a package of about \$8.7 trillion dollars' worth of potential taxpayer commitments for loans, guarantees and other bailout goodies for businesses and distressed homeowners. Amid the tissue paper:

- More than \$1.5 trillion in Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. loan guarantees, including a \$139 billion assist to the lending arm of General Electric Corp.
- \$1.8 trillion in cash, tax breaks and loan guarantees doled out from the Treasury Department to

taxpayers, financial institutions and credit companies.

- \$300 billion for homeowners from the Federal Housing Authority.

- \$25 billion in assistance for auto companies from a program overseen by the Energy Department, which is separate from the bailout proposal that tanked last week in the Senate.

- And \$5 trillion worth of new money, loan guarantees and loosened lending requirements from the Federal Reserve Bank. According to Bianco Research President James Bianco, who crunched these numbers, that amounts to more government aid and assistance than nine other historic bailouts and big government outlays combined.

The New Deal, for instance, cost an estimated \$32 billion in its day, which would be about \$500 billion in today's dollars. The Marshall Plan cost about \$12.7 billion, which is the equivalent of a paltry \$115.3 billion. The Louisiana Purchase? The French got \$15 million, which would be worth about \$217 billion today.

If you take those three items, add in the adjusted costs of the Race to the Moon, the savings and loan crisis, the Korean War, the Iraq war, the Vietnam War and assistance for NASA, you still get to just \$3.92 trillion — not even half of the taxpayers' exposure today, according to Bianco. If that weren't enough to make



US President George W. Bush made a surprise visit to Afghanistan on Monday, holding talks with President Hamid Karzai and warning of a long struggle ahead to quell insurgent violence.

(AFP/Saul Loeb)

you want to upgrade your holiday gift list, it's useful to remember that Congress isn't done and President-elect Barack Obama's team hasn't even started.

They are promising a newer and bigger stimulus package early next year — one that could make last spring's \$168 billion government giveaway to taxpayers (remember that fixer?) look like pocket change. Asked just how much the taxpayers are on the hook for, Bianco said: "I just say you should use the number infinity, because nobody understands these numbers, and I would include the Treasury secretary and chairman of the Fed in that group." There is a bright side, sort of. Only about \$2.9 trillion of the government money, loans and guarantees have actually been spent or committed.

And some of the deals are structured with the idea that taxpayers could one day make

money off them by selling pieces of companies or the government's new stake in them.

But that can't be done until the economy rebounds, something that most economists aren't yet willing to predict — probably because it would be even more depressing. Now, all this is not to say that these measures weren't necessary to save consumers from an even worse fate. That's a big unanswered question that now will be left to speculators. But the vast majority of the smart economic crowd, from both sides of the aisle, say the job losses and economic calamity that would have ensued without government intervention today would make the Great Depression look like an economic hiccup.

"If we don't fix this, it doesn't matter if we can't pay for it," said Heather Boushey, a senior economist at the Center for American Progress. □

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RATES LOW

Continued from Page B1

The Fed's aggressive move was greeted enthusiastically by Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 250 points in late-afternoon trading. The Fed's action and statement made clear that economic conditions have worsened since its last meeting in October.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues said they will use unconventional methods to try to contain a financial crisis that is the worst since the 1930s and a recession that is already the longest in a quarter-century. For example, the Fed last month said it planned to purchase up to \$600 billion in direct debt and mortgage-backed securities issued by big financial players including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in an effort to boost the availability of mortgage loans. That move was one of a series the central bank has taken to increase its loans by hundreds of billions of dollars as a way to deal with the worst financial crisis to hit the U.S. in more than 70 years.

The Fed on Tuesday also made clear that it intends to keep the funds rate at extremely low levels.

"The committee anticipates that weak economic conditions are likely to warrant exceptionally low levels of the federal funds rate for some time," the central bank's panel that sets interest rates said in a statement.

Even before the announcement of a lower target, the funds rate has been trading well below the old target of 1 percent. For November, the funds rate had averaged 0.39 percent. Analysts said it was likely to fall further

with the Fed setting the new target as low as zero.

The Fed's decision is expected to be quickly matched by a reduction in banks' prime lending rate, the benchmark rate for millions of business and consumer loans. Before the Fed announcement, the prime rate stood at 4 percent.

The Fed has never pushed its target for the federal funds rate as low as zero to 0.25 percent. The lowest target rate before had been 1 percent, a level seen only once before in the past half-century.

Given how low interest rates are, the central bank said it planned to use a variety of unconventional methods to flood the banking system with credit and drive interest rates lower.

"The Federal Reserve will employ all available tools to promote the resumption of sustainable economic growth and to preserve price stability," the Fed said.

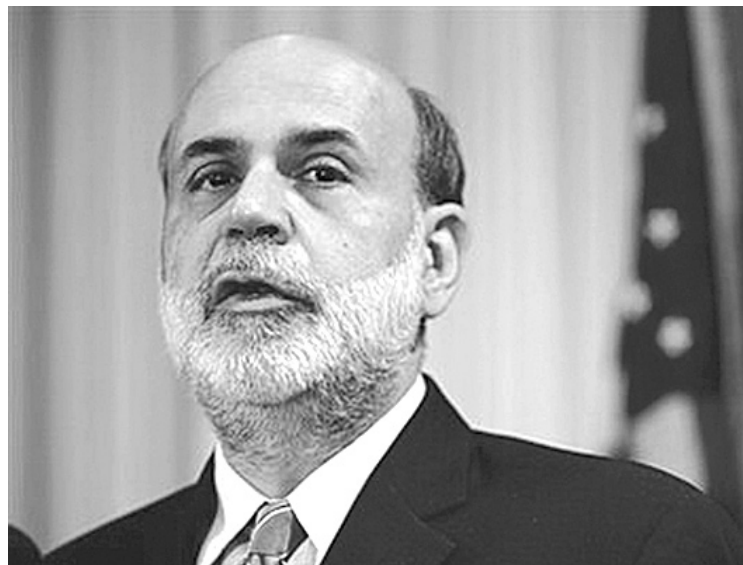
The announcement on the deployment of unconventional methods had been expected given that Bernanke and other Fed officials have sought in recent comments to let financial markets know that the central bank will not be out of ammunition to battle the economic downturn even with the funds rate at such low levels.

In its statement Tuesday, the Fed said that since its last meeting in late October, "labor market conditions have deteriorated, and the available data indicate that consumer spending, business investment and industrial production have declined. Financial markets remain quite strained and credit

conditions tight."

The central bank acknowledged that it had room to battle the economic weakness because inflation pressures have "diminished appreciably" as the price of energy and other commodities has fallen sharply.

The Fed action came only hours after the government announced that consumer prices dropped by a record amount of 1.7 percent in November, reflecting a record decline in the price of gasoline and other energy products. □





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Education Secretary-designate Arne Duncan smiles as President-elect Barack Obama make the announcement, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, at the Dodge Renaissance Academy in Chicago.

(AP Photo)

ED SECRETARY

Continued from Front Page

Duncan, a longtime friend of Obama and a former professional basketball player in Australia, said in brief comments that education is "the civil rights issue of our generation." His appointment is subject to Senate confirmation. Obama combined his announcement with a brief news conference in which he refused to say whether he supports the idea of a special election to fill the Senate seat he recently vacated.

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has the power to make the appointment, but he was arrested last week and charged with, in effect, trying to enrich himself by appointing a new senator who could help him financially or politically. Some Democrats have called for a special election, while others prefer to wait for Blagojevich to resign, a step that would allow Lt.

Gov. Pat Quinn to appoint a new senator. The second alternative would ensure the seat remains in Democratic hands, and on a faster timetable than a special election would allow.

Obama cut off a reporter who sought to ask a question about Rep. Rahm Emanuel, the incoming White House chief of staff, who was reportedly heard on a federal wiretap talking with an aide to Blagojevich about potential Senate replacements. The president-elect said he has not been able to confirm that is the case.

Neither Obama nor Emanuel has been accused of any wrongdoing, and the president-elect has said he will make the results of an internal investigation into the matter public soon.

On the economy, the president-elect said the Federal Reserve was "running out of ammunition" in terms of lowering interest rates to

combat the recession. He said it was "absolutely critical" that his economic recovery program be put into place to deal with what he called the toughest time economically since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Obama said he was meeting with his economic team later Tuesday.

The Fed on Tuesday cut its target for a key interest rate to the lowest level on record. The central bank says it reduced the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, to a range of zero to 0.25 percent. That is down from the 1 percent target rate in effect since the last meeting in October.

The appointment of Duncan left a handful of Cabinet appointments yet to be made public, and in response to a question, Obama hinted broadly a Republican would be among them.

The posts yet to be filled include secretaries for the departments of Labor, Transportation, Agriculture and Interior, where officials have said Democratic Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado has been tapped. Nor has Obama named leaders for the intelligence agencies, or a trade representative.

So far, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, a holdover from the Bush administration, is the only Republican member of the incoming Cabinet. □

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Father of Oregon bank bombing suspect arrested

SALEM, Ore. — The father of a Salem man accused of killing two Oregon law enforcement officers in a bank explosion was arrested Tuesday on bomb-making conspiracy charges, authorities said.

Bruce Turnidge, 57, faces charges of conspiracy to manufacture and possess an explosive device, the Marion County district attorney's office said.

His son, 32-year-old Joshua Turnidge, appeared in court Tuesday on charges that include aggravated murder in the explosion Friday at the West Coast Bank in the agricultural town of Woodburn. The charge carries a potential death penalty.

"My client is clear-headed," said Joshua Turnidge's court-appointed attorney, Steven Krasik of Salem. "He was surprised to be arrested. And he is optimistic that he will be cleared of all these charges."

Officers arrested his father at a farm about 13 miles southwest of Salem, the city where Joshua lives. Lt. Sheila Lorange of the Marion County Sheriff's Office said law enforcers were searching all 750 acres of the farm "from front to back." She would not elaborate.

Bruce Turnidge does not own the farm, but public records list it as his address. It was not clear whether he was a renter there, and the owner was not immediately available for comment.

The blast killed a State Police bomb technician, Senior Trooper William Hakim, and a Woodburn officer, Capt. Tom Tennant. It critically injured Woodburn Police Chief Scott Russell; a probable cause statement said Russell lost his right leg from the knee down and his left leg was mutilated.

The probable cause statement said that on Friday

morning, a man called in a bomb threat to the Wells Fargo Bank in Woodburn, which is next door to the West Coast Bank branch.

The man said "if 'they' didn't leave the building, all of them would die," the court document states.

The man also said that a cell phone would be found next to a garbage can, and that he would give further instructions on it. The man also said he would be calling the West Coast Bank. Local police officers arrived at the Wells Fargo building, opened a garbage bin and spotted a cell phone on top of what appeared to be a package. Hakim and an FBI bomb technician were called. They examined the package and cell phone and determined the package was a hoax device.

Woodburn police searched the area around the two banks for other devices, and a green metal box was spotted next to the West Coast Bank building.

Hakim, Tennant and Russell arrived at the West Coast Bank. After Hakim inspected and X-rayed the green box, he said he was "confident that it was a hoax device and that it could be taken apart to be placed into evidence."

The statement says a bank employee saw Hakim trying to open the box while Tennant held it when the bomb exploded. The bank employee was treated at a hospital and released.

Joshua Turnidge, a Navy veteran who worked in a biodiesel fuel enterprise with his uncle, appeared in court Tuesday morning for the first time since his Sunday arrest. He was appointed the attorney and did not enter a plea. His next scheduled court date is Dec. 26.

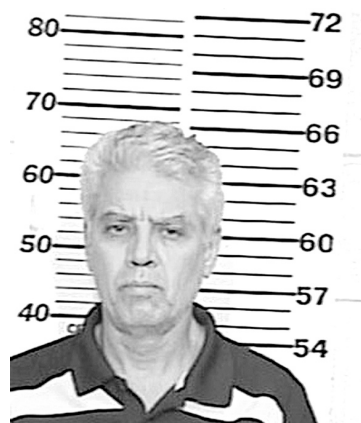
Authorities have refused to say what they think the motive was for the bombing.



Joshua Turnidge, left, stands with his attorney Steven L. Krasik as he is arraigned in Marion County Court in Salem, Ore., Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, on charges related to a bank bombing in Woodburn on Friday that killed two law enforcement officers and critically injured a third.

Associated Press

Letter to Santa leads to Texas molestation charge



This booking mug released by the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office shows Andres Enrique Cantu, 55, of Pharr, Texas, who was arrested Friday, Dec. 12, 2008, on charges of continuous sexual abuse of a young child. A 9-year-old girl's letter to Santa Claus asking that a relative stop touching her and her sister led to the arrest.

Associated Press

PHARR, Texas — Police in south Texas say a 9-year-old girl's letter to Santa may have finally stopped a nightmare of sexual abuse for her and her 10-year-old sister.

Police allege that for as long as four years, Andres Enrique Cantu sexually abused the girls in their bedrooms while they slept or did their homework. Cantu is a computer lab aide at

an alternative high school but has not been accused of crimes against students there.

The white-haired Cantu, 55, shuffled into court in leg irons and handcuffs for the second time in less than a week Tuesday to face a charge of continuous sexual abuse of a young child. He did not have an attorney present.

The 9-year-old's plea to Santa, written as a school assignment,

launched the investigation and led to the first charge of continuous sexual abuse last week. On Tuesday, Cantu was accused of abusing the girl's older sister, who was also mentioned in the letter. □



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Israeli-Palestinian peace process is irreversible

UNITED NATIONS – The U.N. Security Council approved a resolution Tuesday stressing that the Israeli-Palestinian peace process initiated by the United States last year is irreversible and urging intensified efforts to achieve peace throughout the Middle East.

The vote was 14-0, with Libya abstaining.

The resolution — co-sponsored by the United States and Russia — backs “the determined efforts” by Israel and the Palestinians to conclude a peace treaty and fulfill the vision that they can live peacefully side by side as independent democratic states.

The negotiating process launched by President George W. Bush at Annapolis, Md., in November 2007 called for the Israelis and Palestinians to try to reach a final peace deal by the end of 2008.

That goal would have given Bush a diplomatic victory just

before leaving office — but it was not to be, despite months of intense negotiations.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said all council members regret an agreement won’t be reached this year, but said “a serious process is under way” and the international community must ensure the talks achieve results.

Both Israel and the Palestinians welcomed the resolution. Riyadh Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. observer, expressed hope that the sides will remove “all obstacles” and reach a peace treaty in 2009. He said the Palestinians are “happy” that the Security Council — which has not adopted a comprehensive resolution on the Mideast since November 2003 — is actively engaged.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni who has been Israel’s chief peace negotiator since Annapolis, said the resolution gave an important

“international endorsement” for the peace efforts.

“The Security Council’s clear support is a vote of confidence in the process Israel is advancing with the legitimate Palestinian leadership,” she said.

Livni said negotiations would continue, though talks must be accompanied by the Palestinian government’s efforts to crack down on militants and end the Hamas militant group’s control of the Gaza Strip.

In probably her last U.N. appearance, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the negotiations born at Annapolis “give me confidence” that the goal of independent Israeli and Palestinian states living in peace and security “is not just a vision, but it is a commitment of the parties and of the international community.”

“There can be no turning back the clock,” she told the council. “We have to continue on the chosen path.”



Javier Solana, far left, European Union foreign policy chief, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, second from left, Ban Ki-moon, second from right, United Nations Secretary General and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, far right, attend a press conference after a meeting of the Mideast Quartet at the United Nations in New York, Monday Dec. 15, 2008. The meeting comes one day before the UN Security Council meets Tuesday on a draft resolution on the Middle East.


Associated Press

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stressed that the issues at the heart of the conflict are complex and will require “political will and also courage” to resolve.

The sides have failed to bridge disagreements over the so-called core issues, including their final borders and the

competing claims to the holy city of Jerusalem.


Political uncertainty on both sides has also clouded the picture. Israel is headed toward elections in February, and the front-runner, Benjamin Netanyahu, has been cool to the Annapolis process. □



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| PG-13 | THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES | daily: 5:20 matinee: 12:40 | 7:40 3:00 | 10:00 late show: 12:20 |
| PG-13 | THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL | daily: 5:15 matinee: 12:35 | 7:35 2:55 | 9:50 late show: 12:15 |
| R | SEX DRIVE | daily: 8:05 matinee: | | 10:25 late show: 12:40 |
| PG | BOLT | daily: 4:10 matinee: 12:00 | 6:10 2:10 | 8:20 late show: 12:25 |
| PG | MADAGASCAR 2 | daily: 4:05 matinee: 12:05 | 6:10 2:05 | late show: |

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| PG-13 | TWILIGHT | daily: 4:50 matinee: 11:50 | 7:20 2:20 | 9:50 late show: 12:20 |
| PG-13 | FOUR CHRISTMASES | daily: 4:25 matinee: 12:45 | 6:15 2:35 | 8:05 late show: 11:45 |
| PG-13 | THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL | daily: 5:20 matinee: 12:45 | 7:40 3:05 | 10:10 late show: 12:25 |
| PG | BOLT | daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:05 | 6:20 2:10 | 8:30 late show: 12:30 |
| R | BODIES OF LIES | daily: 7:40 matinee: | | 10:00 late show: 12:35 |
| PG | MADAGASCAR 2 | daily: 3:50 matinee: 12:00 | 5:45 1:55 | late show: |

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| PG | NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST | Thursday: 8:00 Friday: 8:00 & 10:30 |
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90 arrested in raids to thwart Mafia regrouping

By JEAN-PIERRE VERGES
Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) - Police acting on a warning Tuesday found a bundle of dynamite inside a Paris department store at the height of the Christmas season, and a group demanding that France withdraw from Afghanistan claimed responsibility.

Sticks of dynamite tied together but without a detonator were found in the Printemps department store, a favored shopping destination for tourists, and a Christmas season attraction because of its festive window displays.

Interior Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said the explosives appeared "relatively old." Police said they were found in the third floor restroom of the menswear department. Five sticks were found together, officials said.

"There was no risk of explosion," the minister said.

French news agency Agence France-Presse said it received a letter Tuesday morning from a group calling itself the Afghan Revolutionary Front saying that several bombs had been planted in the store. Police said they searched the store and found the dynamite because of the warning.

Alliot-Marie said the group was "totally unknown" to police but that the claim was being studied.

In the letter, the group demanded the withdrawal of French troops from Afghanistan before the end of February, and threatened attacks if France refuses.

"Otherwise we will go back into action in your big capitalist stores and this time without warning you," the letter said, according to AFP.

President Nicolas Sarkozy, who has increased France's troop levels in Afghanistan, quickly stressed that he would not bend to terrorism. France has 2,800 troops in Afghanistan.

"We need to be vigilant about terrorism.

That is the only right policy. We have to be firm. We cannot compromise with terrorists," Sarkozy said.

A senior police official said several aspects of the incident did not bear the hallmarks of Islamic terrorism - sending a

warning, the type of explosives used, the language in the letter and the name used by the group. The group is unknown to the French domestic intelligence agency, the official said anonymously because she was

not authorized to speak to the media. "This doesn't resemble anything we have ever seen." Officers cordoned off streets around the building. Anti-crime brigades and bomb squads with a sniffer dog were called in. □




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NBA Roundup

Celtics beat Jazz 100-91 15th straight win

Boston Celtics guard Paul Pierce (34) grabs his left knee after hitting the parquet floor against the Utah Jazz during the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday Dec. 15, 2008. Pierce was helped from the floor and left the game.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) - Rajon Rondo scored 12 of his career-high 25 points in the final 5:20, and Kevin Garnett had 19 points and 10 rebounds on Monday to lead the Boston Celtics to their 15th consecutive victory, 100-91 over the Utah Jazz.

Kendrick Perkins added 15 points and 14 rebounds for Boston, which avenged the worst loss of its championship season. Paul Pierce scored 15 points before he hurt his left knee during a scramble for a defensive rebound with 31 seconds left. He said he should be all right.

Paul Millsap scored a career-high 32 points with 10 rebounds for Utah.

Suns 111, Knicks 103

At Phoenix, Steve Nash scored 21 points, including a game-clinching 3-pointer with 28 seconds to play, and the Suns spoiled New York coach Mike D’Antoni’s return to Phoenix.

Shaquille O’Neal had 23 points, making 11 of 18 free throws, and 12 rebounds. Amare Stoudemire added 21 points and 14 boards for the Suns, who topped 110 points for the fourth game in a row.

Nate Robinson scored 27, 17 after halftime, in his second game back from a groin injury for New York. Al Harrington added 24, but D’Antoni’s run-and-shoot squad was just 5-of-37 on 3-pointers.

Nuggets 98, Mavericks 88

At Dallas, reserve J.R. Smith scored 25 points, Carmelo Anthony added 23, and Denver beat Dallas to extend its winning streak to four games.

Chauncey Billups had 15 points and eight assists for the Nuggets, who have won seven of eight and improved to 16-4 since Billups joined the team after a Nov. 3 trade with the Detroit Pistons.

Dirk Nowitzki had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Jason Terry scored 19 points for the Mavericks, who had won 11 of their previous 13.

Bucks 98, Heat 83

At Miami, Michael Redd scored 16 of his 21 points in the first quarter, and Milwaukee started quickly before holding off a late rally to beat Miami.

Andrew Bogut had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Charlie Villanueva added 20 points for Milwaukee, which won on the road for the first time since beating Charlotte on Nov. 22.

Mario Chalmers had 20 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and Dwyane Wade added 15 points for the Heat, who lost their third straight game.

Nets 94, Raptors 87

At Toronto, Vince Carter had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Ryan Anderson scored 21 points, and New Jersey beat Toronto to snap a three-game losing streak.

Devin Harris added 16 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter. Carter scored a season-high 39 points in a 129-127 overtime victory at Toronto on Nov. 21, but had only three points and shot a career-worst 0-for-13 against his former team as the Raptors beat the Nets 101-79 last Friday.

In other NBA games Monday, it was: Indiana 118, Washington 98; New Jersey 94, Toronto 87; Milwaukee 98, Miami 83; Denver 98, Dallas 88; Phoenix 111, New York 103; Sacramento 118, Minnesota 103; and Orlando 109, Golden State 98. □



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NFL Roundup

McNabb leads Eagles to 30-10 win over Browns

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Donovan McNabb threw for 290 yards and two touchdowns, and Asante Samuel scored on an interception return as the Philadelphia Eagles beat the struggling Cleveland Browns 30-10 on Monday for their third straight victory.

Philadelphia (8-5-1) remained a half-game behind three teams in the race for the two National Football Conference wild-card spots. The Eagles have to win their final two games - at Washington and home against Dallas - and need Atlanta or Tampa Bay to lose once to secure a playoff berth.

The Browns (4-10) have lost four in a row. At least they finally scored a touchdown on Brandon McDonald's 24-yard interception return in the fourth quarter. The Browns,

who didn't reach the end zone in the previous three games, could be looking for a new coach to replace Romeo Crennel after the season.

Jason Avant had five receptions for 101 yards - his first career 100-yard game. McNabb finished 26-of-35 before he was replaced by Kevin Kolb with more than 10 minutes remaining.

Just three weeks ago, the Eagles were in shambles. People were calling for coach Andy Reid to be fired and McNabb's days in Philadelphia seemed numbered after he was benched for the first time in his career at halftime of a 36-7 loss at Baltimore.

But the Eagles answered with impressive wins over the playoff-bound Arizona Cardinals and New York Giants. They easily handled the

Browns, despite squandering several opportunities.

The Eagles reached the red zone on all seven possessions with McNabb under center, but managed just two touchdowns and three field goals. They had a 17-3 lead at halftime that likely would've been bigger if it weren't for two interceptions in the end zone.

Rookie wide receiver DeSean Jackson threw the first one after taking a direct snap at the 7. Sean Jones made a diving catch to pick off Jackson's underthrown pass early in the second quarter.

McDonald then intercepted McNabb's pass on the final play of the second and ran it back 98 yards to the Eagles 7. McDonald was chased by Brian Westbrook and finally caught from behind by Hank Baskett, who was the intended



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb (5) looks to pass as Cleveland Browns linebacker Kamerion Wimbley (95) closes in during the first quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

receiver on the play.

Cleveland's Ken Dorsey, making his second straight

start for the injured Derek Anderson and Brady Quinn, was intercepted twice. □

Report: WBC opens probe into doping by Mosley

NEW YORK (AP) - The World Boxing Council has opened an investigation of Shane Mosley following recent reports that the fighter testified under oath to taking performance-enhancing drugs in the lead-up to his 2003 title bout against Oscar De La Hoya, the New York Daily News reported Tuesday.

Nearly three months after winning the WBC junior middleweight title with his victory over De La Hoya, Mosley told a grand jury he used steroids and EPO as part of his training regimen for the fight.

Mosley insists he didn't know the drugs he took were banned or illegal.

"It was a real surprise to read that Mosley has confessed that he did take those medicines, those drugs that are totally prohibited by the WBC," said the council's president, Jose Sulaiman. "The WBC rules state that we must have a hearing. This is a matter of serious concern to us."

Sulaiman has ordered the WBC's legal counsel to gather evidence on Mosley to present to the Council's 29-member board of governors. The board has the authority to vote on sanctions and can issue disqualifications or severe fines, even after the conclusion of a fight.

"Thus far the WBC has seen only press reports, and

must therefore investigate any available evidence and review it, in terms of the WBC rules and regulations' anti-doping provisions," said Robert Lenhardt, an attorney for the WBC.

The investigation will coincide with a defamation lawsuit Mosley filed against BALCO founder Victor Conte. The suit claims Conte told newspapers he watched Mosley inject himself with EPO and that the boxer knew what he was taking. Conte, who is in possession of the grand jury transcripts because he was a defendant in the BALCO case, said he is "more than willing to cooperate with any investigation of



In this Sept. 27, 2008 file photo, Shane Mosley, left, connects with left to the body of Ricardo Mayorga, of Nicaragua, in the 8th round of a junior middleweight boxing match in Carson, Calif. Mosley told a grand jury in 2003 that he injected himself with the doping agent EPO as he prepared for a fight against Oscar De La Hoya, according to court transcripts and doping calendars reviewed by the New York Daily News.

Associated Press

Shane Mosley's use of performance-enhancing drugs." The WBC rules include a prohibition that no boxer "shall be under the influence of any drug during the contest that will in any manner affect their

performance in the ring." Mosley, a four-time world champion, is scheduled to meet current WBA welterweight title holder Antonio Margarito on Jan. 24 at Staples Center in Los Angeles. □

NHL Roundup

Sharks beat Kings 3-2 in shootout



San Jose Sharks' Ryane Clowe, second from right, scores a power-play goal past Los Angeles Kings goaltender Erik Ersberg, of Sweden, as Kings' Denis Gauthier, right, tries to defend and Sharks' Milan Michalek, of the Czech Republic, looks on from rear during the first period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Patrick Marleau tied the score with a short-handed goal before the San Jose Sharks topped the Los Angeles Kings 3-2 in a shootout on Monday to set an NHL mark for the best record through the first 30 games of the season. Ryane Clowe scored a power-play goal in

the first period and got the deciding goal in the shootout. The Sharks improved to 25-3-2 with their 12th victory in 13 games and 19th in the past 22. The closest team in the Western Conference - the defending Stanley Cup champion Detroit Red Wings - fell eight points back after

Associated Press

Mannings first QB brothers to make Pro Bowl



This is a June 14, 2008 file photo showing Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, left, and his brother Eli Manning, quarterback for the New York Giants, tossing footballs during a promotional event in New York.

NEW YORK — Peyton and Eli Manning have been voted to the Pro Bowl, the first time two quarterback-playing brothers have played in the same game.

Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts will play for the AFC, and his brother Eli of the New York Giants will play

for the NFC. It will be Peyton Manning's ninth appearance in 11 seasons in the NFL's all-star game; Eli, the MVP in last season's Super Bowl, will be competing in his first.

Also on the NFC team: two Giants with a combined age of 86: the 44-year-old kicker John Carney and 42-year-old

their 3-2 loss to Colorado. Avalanche 3, Red Wings 2 At Detroit, Jordan Leopold scored on a penalty shot and added an assist, and Andrew Raycroft made 34 saves as Colorado held on for a win over Detroit. Wojtek Wolski and Paul Stastny also scored for Colorado.

Tomas Holmstrom and Marian Hossa scored for Detroit. Chris Osgood stopped 24 shots.

Hossa brought the Red Wings to within a goal 7:07 into the third period when he scored from the left circle off a face off won by Henrik Zetterberg. It was Hossa's 16th goal. Leopold scored on a penalty shot 1:51 into the third for his fifth goal. He put a backhand over Osgood's shoulder after the Red Wings' Brett Lebda was called for covering the puck in the crease. □

punter Jeff Feagles.

Carney made the Pro Bowl with San Diego in 1994 and Feagles with Arizona in 1995. □

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Calendar Period: December 2008 - January 2009

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|--|---|---|
| week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront -US\$26,000 | week#51 - La Cabana - Studio R#238bPoolOceanviewUS\$7,000 | week# 50 - Paradise Beach- 1Bdr R#306,GardenView! -US\$6,500 |
| week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront US\$35,000 | PlatinumPl. W#51 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, Oceanview-US\$45,000 | week# 50-Paradise Beach 2BTH. R#217,PoolOcean- US\$12,000 |
| week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$30,000 | PlatinumPl. W#52 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000 | week# 1- Paradise Beach-1Bdr R#227,OceanFront- US\$15,000 |
| week#49-La Cabana - studio R#209b OceanView- US\$5,000 | FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,Oceanview- US\$12,000 | week# 48 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#207 OceanFront- US\$7,625 |
| week#50 -La Cabana - 1 Bdr R#137c - OceanView-US\$6,000 | FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000 | week#52 -DiviPhoenix - studio R#110-OceanFront-US\$11,000 |
| Week#51-Divi Phoenix - 1 Bdr R#1401, OceanView - US\$13,500 | PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000 | week# 1- DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr. R#206,OceanFront- US\$20,000 |
| week#50 & 51 La Cabana-2 Bdr. R#414,PoolOcean US\$30,000 | PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$30,000 | week# 51-CasaDelMar aw-1Bdr. R#1329,PoolView US\$10,000 |
| week#51-La Cabana - studio R#416b,PoolOcean-US\$7,500 | PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000 | week# 50 - RIU Palace - 1Bdr R#566,Oceanview-US\$6,000 |
| week#50-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#227a-OceanView- US\$5,500 | PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000 | week#1 - Riu Palace - 2Bdr R#269-OceanFront- US\$28,000 |
| week#50-La Cabana -1Bdr R#138c-PoolOcean-US\$6,000 | week# 50 - Renaissance - 1Bdr. R#2512,Gardenview-US\$9,000 | week#48 - Playa Linda -1Bdr R#154-Oceanview-US\$10,000 |
| week#52-La Cabana- 1Bdr R#118a-PoolOcean- US\$12,000 | week# 47 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2322,OceanView- US\$5,000 | week#48-DiviDutchVillage -2Bdr R#76 - PoolView - US\$12,000 |
| Floating w#2-17 Occidental Gra. 1Bdr/dlx-PoolOcean-US\$13,000 | week# 48 - Renaissance - 1Bdr. R#2127,PoolOcean- US\$6,000 | week# 1-DiviLinks-2Bdr penth. Duplex,Poolview - US\$45,000 |
| Floating w#18-50-Occidental Gr. JuniorS-PoolOcean-US\$11,000 | week# 1 & 2 Renaissance-1 Bdr. R#2508,Gardenv.-US\$9,000p.w. | week# 52 - DiviLinks - 1Bdr. R#2206,PoolOcean-US\$15,000 |
| Floating-18-26/36-50-Occidental 1Bdr/dlx,PoolOcean-US\$10,000 | week# 51 - Renaissance -1 Bdr. R#2311,PoolOcean- US\$12,000 | week# 50 & 51-DiviLinks -1 Bdr. R#4226,Poolview-US\$16,000pw |
| Floating W# 1-17-Occidental Gr. studio,PoolOceanv-US\$9,000 | week# 51-Aruban Resort- 1 Bdr. R#4584g, PoolView - US\$9,475 | week# 52 & 1- DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$17,000pw |
| Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Oceanview- US\$23,000 | week#51&52.ArubanResort-1Br R#4586, PoolView-US\$9,475pw | week# 2 & 3-DiviLinks- 1 Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$15,000p.w |
| Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Gardenview- US\$20,000 | week# 1 & 2,ArubanResort-1Bdr R#4585,Poolview- US\$8,475pw | week# 49-Renaissance-1Bdrdlx R#2349,OceanFront,US\$10,000 |
| Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide- US\$23,000 | week# 2,Aruban Resort-1 Bdr. R#4584 , PoolView-US\$.8,475 | week#50-ParadiseBeach-1Bdr. R#101,PoolOcean- US\$10,000 |
| Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$30,000 | week# 51,Aruban Resort - 1 Bdr R#3525, PoolView - US\$9,475 | week# 50&51-Costa Linda-2Bdr R#3007,PoolOcean-US\$50,000 |
| Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$50,000 | week#52,Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R# 4522,PoolView- US\$9,475 | week#2-ParadiseBeach-2Bdr R#207,PoolOcean - US\$15,000 |
| Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000 | week#49&50,ArubanResort-2Bdr R#1552PoolView-US\$12,500pw | week# 3&4 ParadiseBeach-1Br R#101,P.Ocean-US\$12,000pw |
| Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000 | week#51&52,ArubanResort-2Br. R#1552PoolView US\$13,500pw | week#49 -Renaissance-1Bdr R#2144,Gardenview US\$4,000 |
| PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$140,000 | week#49&50,ArubanResort-1Br. R#1515,PoolView - US\$14,000 | week#1through52AmsterDM-2B R#213,P.Ocean - US\$520,000 |
| PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$125,000 | week# 49,Paradise Beach-1Bdr. R#101,PoolOcean-US\$7,800 | week#18-50.DiviVillage-1Bdr R#2E,Poolview-US\$10,000 |

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Países suramericanos crean consejo regional de defensa



Los presidentes de la Unión Suramericana de Naciones posan para una fotografía en Costa do Sauipe, Brasil, 16 dic 2008. Los presidentes de la Unión Suramericana de Naciones (UNASUR) aprobaron el martes la creación de un consejo regional de defensa, que entre otros objetivos buscará reforzar la confianza entre las fuerzas armadas del área. REUTERS/Jamil Bittar

COSTA DO SAUIPE, Brasil (Reuters) - Los presidentes de la Unión Suramericana de Naciones (UNASUR) aprobaron el martes la creación de un consejo regional de defensa, que entre otros objetivos buscará reforzar la confianza entre las fuerzas armadas del área. La decisión fue adoptada en la segunda de cuatro cumbres regionales consecutivas que se realizarán hasta el martes en el balneario brasileño Costa do Sauipe y revierte el revés que sufrió la UNASUR sobre el tema en su cumbre fundacional de mayo pasado, en Brasilia. El llamado Consejo de Defensa Sudamericano, que integrarán

los ministros del área de los 14 miembros de UNASUR, “no es un instrumento de operaciones militares”, dijo el canciller de Brasil, Celso Amorim, al anunciar la decisión. “Es un instrumento de cooperación, entrenamiento y también prevé el desarrollo conjunto de industrias en esa área, y ayudará a mantener la confianza entre las fuerzas armadas de la región”, agregó. Amorim enfatizó que todavía no se estableció ninguna especificación para el establecimiento de una industria común de equipos de defensa, lo que estará en manos de los ministros del área.

La cumbre de la UNASUR también aprobó la creación de un Consejo Sudamericano de Salud, “cuyo objetivo es la promoción de políticas sanitarias comunes, de cooperación”, agregó. Amorim reconoció que se trató sobre la designación del secretario general de UNASUR, cuya presidencia ejerce la mandataria de Chile, Michelle Bachelet, pero el tema será objeto de nuevas consultas y se resolvería para abril. La cumbre sudamericana estuvo precedida por una reunión similar de la unión aduanera Mercosur, y a continuación comenzó otra de América Latina

y el Caribe, que culminará el miércoles.

La cuarta cumbre en dos días en el lujoso balneario del noreste de Brasil será del Grupo de Río, con el objeto principal de que reciba el apoyo presidencial el ya decidido ingreso de Cuba

al mecanismo de consultas políticas. Respondiendo a una pregunta, Amorim dijo que era muy positiva el ingreso de la isla de gobierno comunista al grupo, pero indicó que “no es con intención de presionar a nadie.”

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